

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 15, 16 and 18-30 are pending.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 15-16 and 18-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Jaunich (U.S. Patent No. 6,605,880) in view of Tsui (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0040847).

As a preliminary matter, the undersigned appreciatively acknowledges the courtesy extended by Examiner Nguyen in holding a personal interview with the undersigned on August 4, 2010. During the interview, the undersigned explained that the present application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. Serial No. 09/749,999, filed December 29, 2000. Furthermore, the undersigned explained that Claims 15-30 correspond with original Claims 116-131 from parent patent application Serial No. 09/749,999. Thus, original Claims 15-30 are the same claims that were found in its parent and therefore are fully supported by the parent application, which is entitled to a filing date of December 20, 2000.

As each of the pending Claims 15, 16 and 18-30 are entitled to at least an earlier date of December 29, 2000, which is before the effective date of Tsui (May 18, 2001 which is its provisional patent application date) it is respectfully submitted that Tsui is not prior art with respect to the presently pending claims.

In view of the above it is respectfully submitted that because Tsui has been removed from prior art and all of the rejections are based on an assertion of Tsui, the present

Application No. 09/881,001  
Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2010

application patentably defines over the asserted prior art. A Notice of Allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.



---

Bradley D. Lytle  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 40,073

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 07/09)